GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2879
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
FLOODS IN WEST BENGAL
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a common practice for the Central Government to step in decisivelyand assist the State when a calamity of rare severity occurs;

(b) if so, whether the floods in West Bengal in 1998 and 2000 were calamities of rare severity; and

(c) if so, the details of Government`s response to assist the State Government in meeting the relief and rehabilitation work?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): Central Government`s role in assisting the States for dealing with severecalamities is dependant on the awards of the Finance Commissions. Thus, while in 1998, the mechanism of Central assistance to States in this behalf was through the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), during 2000, it was through the NationalCalamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in accordance with the recommendations of Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions respectively. In 1998, Rs.66.33 cores were released from the NFCR following landslides in Darjeeling and floods in Malda and other districts of West Bengal. In 2000, Rs.103.25 crore were sanctioned from the NCCF for severe floods.These amounts were in addition to the release of Centralshares to the Calamity Relief Fund of the State which was Rs.42.69 crore in 1998-99 and Rs.75.83 crore in 2000-2001.